



News Release

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IDWR EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR RATHDRUM AQUIFER MORATORIUM PETITION

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State water managers have given the public two extra weeks to file comments on a petition to put a moratorium in place on new ground water rights for the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The deadline for filing written comments with IDWR is now October 11. It had been set for this Friday (September 27).

IDWR officials decided to extend the deadline for a pair of reasons.

First, the City of Post Falls asked for an extension to give City officials time to file comments. City Council members were in session during the public information meetings on September 17 and unable to attend.

The City had requested a copy of the audio tape recording made of the comments given during the two meetings and were given assurances by the Department that a copy would be provided. However, IDWR was unable to supply the tape in time to give the City an adequate chance to listen and then prepare comments.

Secondly, IDWR continues to receive a steady flow of written and email comments from the public. That, and the informal nature of the proceedings thus far, also led officials to conclude that it would be appropriate to provide additional time to citizens who want to make their position known on the petition but have not yet done so.

For more information contact the IDWR Northern Region Office in Coeur d'Alene at 769-1450 or the IDWR State Office in Boise at (208) 327-7900. Information about the petition and instructions on how to file comments are also available on the Internet at **www.idwr.state.id.us/Rathdrum**.